



NEWS



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Fiery fatal crash in Cajon Pass jams northbound I-15 traffic; Caltrans reports 12-mile backup

Daily Press

Posted: July 11, 2017, 1:30 PM



Traffic backs up on the Interstate 15 in the Cajon Pass as California Highway Patrol Officers begin the investigation of a fatal collision in northbound lanes near Hesperia CA on Tuesday July 11, 2017. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

CAJON PASS — Authorities said a person died in a fiery crash on northbound Interstate 15 Tuesday afternoon.

Reports of a two-vehicle crash on the northbound lanes of I-15, between Oak Hill Road and Highway 138, were received at 12:54 p.m. Tuesday. A white sedan became ablaze due to the crash, and its driver was unable to exit the vehicle before it was completely engulfed with flames.

California Highway Patrol Sgt. Joe Corney said the white sedan was stopped in the No. 4 northbound lane “for reasons still unknown” when it was struck by a white pickup truck.

The white sedan became engulfed in flames, with one person still inside the vehicle.

San Bernardino County Fire Department spokesman Eric Sherwin said their first units arrived on scene at 1:11 p.m. The blaze was doused five minutes later, but the driver was pronounced dead on scene, Corney said.

The driver of the pickup truck remained on scene after the crash, and no other injuries were reported. Corney said there were no indications of alcohol, drugs or any other suspicious factors behind the cause of the crash at the time, but stressed that the investigation is ongoing.

“We are treating it as a crime,” Corney said. No other details were yet available.

Northbound I-15 traffic was at a standstill after authorities shut down the No. 3, 4 and 5 lanes following the crash. Authorities reopened the No. 3 and 4 lanes roughly an hour later, but the No. 5 lane remained closed as of 3:20 p.m. Corney said it’s expected to remain closed for at least two hours.

As of 3:30 p.m., northbound I-15 traffic remains jammed, with Caltrans reporting a 12-mile backup, according to their Twitter account. Motorists are cautioned to expect major delays.

CHP is investigating the crash. The cause of the fire also remains under investigation by County Fire.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170711/fiery-fatal-crash-in-cajon-pass-jams-northbound-i-15-traffic-caltrans-reports-12-mile-backup>

1 Dead in Fiery Crash in Cajon Pass

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 11, 2017



One person was killed in a fiery crash in the Cajon Pass. (Photo credit Melissa Maldonado)

CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com) One person was killed in a fiery crash on the I-15 freeway Tuesday afternoon.

The two vehicle crash was reported at 12:54 pm, on the northbound I-15 north of Highway 138 in the Cajon Pass.

Per CHP incident logs, a white truck struck a white sedan that was reported to be in the no. 3 lane, leaving one person trapped.

The crash sent the sedan, a white Honda, onto the right shoulder of the freeway facing the wrong way of traffic. The vehicle became engulfed in flames.

Per scanner reports, when **San Bernardino County Fire** arrived they located a fully engulfed vehicle on the shoulder with no threat to the vegetation.

Firefighters extinguished the vehicle fire and one person was pronounced dead on arrival and a second person as having minor injuries, per scanner.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Highway Patrol Office.

Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/1-dead-fiery-crash-cajon-pass/>

Wildomar man found dead near Lake Gregory dam

Doug Saunders, Press Enterprise

Posted: July 11, 2017, 5:02 PM



One person drowned Tuesday, July 11, at Lake Gregory in Crestline, seen here on Thursday, August 5, 2010. (File photo by Kurt Miller, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

CRESTLINE >> A Wildomar man who was reported missing Tuesday afternoon in the waters of Lake Gregory was found dead a short time later near the dam.

Shortly before 2:30 p.m., fire officials announced the victim's body had been recovered.

The initial call came out shortly after 1 p.m., sending several fire personnel to the area.

"Lifeguards are in the water searching, and the sheriff's dive team has been called out," **San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman Eric Sherwin said.

Initial reports say the man was trying to swim from the north shore to south shore, when he vanished under water somewhere near the midpoint of the lake, officials said.

His identity is being withheld pending next-of-kin notification.

<http://www.pe.com/2017/07/11/body-of-lake-gregory-drowning-victim-found-by-dive-team-firefighters/>

Crews Search for Missing Swimmer in Lake Gregory

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 11, 2017



(Image Google Maps)

UPDATE @ 2:30 PM – “Divers have recovered the victim,” according to a tweet from SB County Fire.

CRESTLINE, Calif. (VVNG.com) Emergency crews are searching for a missing swimmer feared to have drowned in Lake Gregory.

The call for service went out just before 1:00 pm, on Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

San Bernardino County Sheriff’s along with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** are actively conducting rescue efforts for a 45-year-old man who possibly drowned, per scanner reports.

Two helicopters, 40 King 5 and Air Rescue 7, were called in to assist in the search for the missing swimmer.

The Sheriff’s Dive Team have also responded and are preparing to enter the waters.

Lake Gregory is approximately 35 miles outside of Victorville located in the community of Crestline.

Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<http://www.vvng.com/crews-search-missing-swimmer-lake-gregory/>

How San Antonio Heights tried to stop Upland fire annexation process|

Liset Márquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: July 11, 2017, 6:36 PM

SAN BERNARDINO >> A last-minute attempt by residents in San Antonio Heights failed to stop the process that could dissolve the 100-year-old Upland Fire Department.

Upland is in the final stages of annexing the department to San Bernardino County, but residents in the unincorporated community north of the city have been highly opposed to the move.

The San Antonio Heights Association on Friday filed a 7-page temporary restraining order in San Bernardino Superior Court in an effort to prevent the annexation process from moving forward, including Tuesday's protest hearing held by the Local Agency Formation Commission, also known as LAFCO.

LAFCO, Upland, and San Bernardino County were all named in the lawsuit.

According to Upland City Attorney Jim Markman, the attorney representing the association withdrew the motion for a temporary restraining order Monday in court after Judge David Cohn appeared to side with the city.

"The plaintiffs lost (Monday). They lost in a way where we didn't even have to argue orally against their position because they withdrew it as soon as the court came out and made a statement," Markman said.

Upland, which filed its brief Monday morning, had argued in court documents that it would be premature to grant a temporary restraining order when it wasn't guaranteed the annexation process would be completed.

All parties agreed to come back to court July 28, which is when attorneys for the association must prove to the court why a preliminary injunction is necessary.

Speaking by phone, Cory Briggs, an attorney for the association, said Tuesday that he requested the temporary restraining order off calendar after all parties indicated a final decision on the annexation wouldn't occur until August.

In December, Upland and **San Bernardino County Fire** adopted resolutions which specifically requested that LAFCO — which oversees annexations — begin the transfer process. If approved, the city's fire station properties, employees, assets, obligations, as well as liabilities, will be transferred to County Fire.

During a hearing in March, the plan was amended to include the unincorporated community of San Antonio Heights, which is already served by county fire, in the Service Zone FP-5.

That service zone, which created a special tax for fire protection, was approved by residents in Helendale more than a decade ago, Briggs said. In an annexation process, Briggs said it is highly unusual for a large city to be swallowed into a small area.

He also found the protest notices sent out by LAFCO are deceptive, adding they falsely stated that all firefighters would be transferred to county fire. The reality is all firefighters will have to apply for positions with the county, Briggs said.

Some property and landowners in both Upland and San Antonio Heights are irked by Upland's decision toward annexation because they would have to pay an annual \$150 parcel tax, which may increase 3 percent annually, and have launched a campaign to stop the process.

In court documents, Briggs argued that this process denies San Antonio Heights and Upland residents the right to vote on a special tax.

"In circumventing the electorate's right to vote on a special tax Defendants Respondents are instituting a protest process by which landowners must first submit a certain number of protests before the special tax is deemed qualified to be put to the electorate," Briggs wrote.

Despite the July 28 hearing, Markman said there is no court order restraining the annexation process from going forward.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/government-and-politics/20170711/how-san-antonio-heights-tried-to-stop-upland-fire-annexation-process>

Wilson Way fire kills dogs

Hi Desert Star

Posted: July 12, 2017, 7:52 AM



This is all that remains from an outbuilding and recreational vehicle destroyed by fire behind a house in the 1500 block of Wilson Way Sunday, July 9. Kurt Schauppner The Desert Trail

TWENTYNINE PALMS — Seven small dogs were killed in a house fire that struck in the 1500 block of Wilson Way Sunday afternoon, July 9.

Fire Capt. John Miller said the call, of a recreational vehicle on fire behind a residence, came in at about 2 p.m.

Firefighters found the RV and a small outbuilding fully involved in flames.

"Our guys went to work," he said, noting that an aggressive exterior attack kept the fire from spreading to the main residence and also kept flames from spreading to surrounding vegetation.

After the fire in the outbuilding was extinguished, he said, firefighters discovered the remains of seven small dogs.

"They were in pretty bad condition from the fire," he said. "No one else was injured."

He said the outbuilding, which looked like it might have been the original homestead cabin, was about 600 square feet.

The homeowner was away, he said, but arrived about an hour after firefighters arrived on scene.

According to information provided by the Morongo Basin sheriff's station, reports of the fire, in the unincorporated community of Desert Heights, began coming in at about 2:01 p.m.

A deputy dispatch to the fire reported that Engine ME44 from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded and contained the fire, which struck and destroyed a back house on the property.

Fire personnel, the deputy reported, located five or six small, dead, dogs.

The homeowner, identified at Peacock, arrived on scene at about 2:50 p.m. and reported she and the dogs were living in the back house because she is remodeling the main house.

She said she did not know how the fire started and was away from the house in order to get food for herself and the dogs.

She said she was gone for about an hour, that she lives alone and that no one has a key or access to her property.

A fire investigator was sent to the scene to determine the cause of the blaze.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_c92af064-6711-11e7-aff1-af6345305b9b.html

Wildfires are nowhere near the Coachella Valley, but they're still sending smoke here

Colin Atagi , The Desert Sun

Posted: July12, 2017, 8:21 AM



In Southern California, at least 3,500 people remained out of their homes as a pair of fires raged at different ends of Santa Barbara County. The larger of the two charred more than 45 square miles. (July 11) AP

The Coachella Valley sky is filled with smoke Wednesday, but it's not coming from a pair of wildfires that are far from the desert.

The smoke is blamed on wildfires in San Diego County and near Santa Barbara, said Tracey Martinez, spokeswoman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

"We've got fires all over," she said.

The Jennings Fire began 1:45 p.m. Tuesday near Interstate 8 in Lakeside, which is about 20 miles east of San Diego. It's burned 400 acres and was 30 percent contained as of Wednesday morning, according to Cal Fire.

The Whittier Fire has been burning since Saturday off Highway 154 near Lake Cachuma. In the Los Padres National Forest. It's charred 11,823 acres and destroyed eight homes and 12 outbuildings according to the U.S. Forest Service.

Firefighters have contained about 48 percent of the fire.

Despite being 200 miles away, it's not out of the question for smoke to travel from Santa Barbara to Palm Springs.

"The particulates are so small, wind can keep them aloft and blow them around for hundreds of miles," said Miguel Miller, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

<http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/environment/2017/07/12/wildfires-nowhere-near-coachella-valley-but-theyre-still-sending-smoke-here/471716001/>